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Sewer project helps east Baghdad community clean up their streets

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Thousands of families in east Baghdad will soon have their neighborhoods free of raw sewage in the streets.

Iraqi construction workers are completing a \$30 million sewer project in Kamaliya, southeast of Sadr City. About 60 kilometers (36 miles) of sewer pipe has been installed, ranging in size from 110 millimeters for house connections to 800 millimeter trunk lines. In addition, 10 pump stations were constructed with the largest having the capacity to move 600 liters per second (more than 2,000 cubic meters per hour).

"Residents there appreciate the improvements taking place," said Iraqi engineer Mustafa Haddad, who works for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "For over two years, we've been working on this project and the community has been very supportive. They were using slit trenches and wading through raw sewage to get to their homes, a definite health risk."

Haddad is the Deputy Resident Engineer of USACE's Loyalty Office located south of Sadr City. More than 20 Iraqi engineers work out of the office overseeing more than \$125 million in infrastructure improvements in east Baghdad, from school and hospital renovations, electric network upgrades, road paving, and new water treatment facilities.



This street in Kamaliya in east Baghdad shows what the neighborhood looked like before construction on that community's first sewer system got underway. (U.S. Army photo)

Haddad has put up with mortars, one of his fellow Iraqi engineers was gunned down after visiting a school project, other office workers have been injured, and he personally has been targeted by insurgents and had to move his family to a different area.

"We're here because we know how important this work is for our country and our people. Yes, it's a difficult time. But those in need are looking for help and we're going to continue to do everything we can to offer it to them," he continued.

"Their streets will soon be dry and clean. People in Kamaliya are seeing significant signs of progress," said the 29-year-old, who earned a bachelor's degree

in civil engineering from Baghdad's University of Technology.

"My family worries about me and the dangers I face, but they understand how important this work is. We need to keep making things better and some day soon Iraq will turn the corner." Apart from Kamaliya, Haddad is overseeing 20 other sewer projects in east Baghdad.



Kamaliya's new sewage system in east Baghdad nears completion. The improvement connects homes in eight *mahallas* (neighborhoods) to a functioning network for the first time. The Iraqi construction crew has installed pump stations, trunk lines, manholes and laterals to homes and businesses. More than 150 workers have been on the crew since the project started in 2005. (U.S. Army photo)

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